

West Covina academy named 2009 Blue Ribbon School

By Stacey Wang, Staff Writer

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Teacher of the year at San Jose-Edison Academy, Elizabeth Bradbury, in her fourth-grade classroom in West Covina on Friday, Sept. 25. The academy was one of two San Gabriel Valley schools receiving the 2009 Blue Ribbon Award. (Photo by William Hallstrom / Correspondent)

Sometimes it's good to be "blue" - especially in the case of San Jose-Edison Academy.

The West Covina school was named a 2009 Blue Ribbon School, only one out of 25 California public schools to receive the honor.

"We are certainly not blue that we're Blue," said Principal Denise Patton.

Receiving national recognition from the U.S. Department of Education has been a honor in the making.

The K-8 charter school also received an Academic Performance Index (API) score of 910 for the 2008-09 school year. It has maintained over 800 API points since 2004.

"The theme of this award has been built upon a school that builds upon continuous improvement," said Patton. "It represents that we have had a school community that has worked really hard in educating our students successfully."

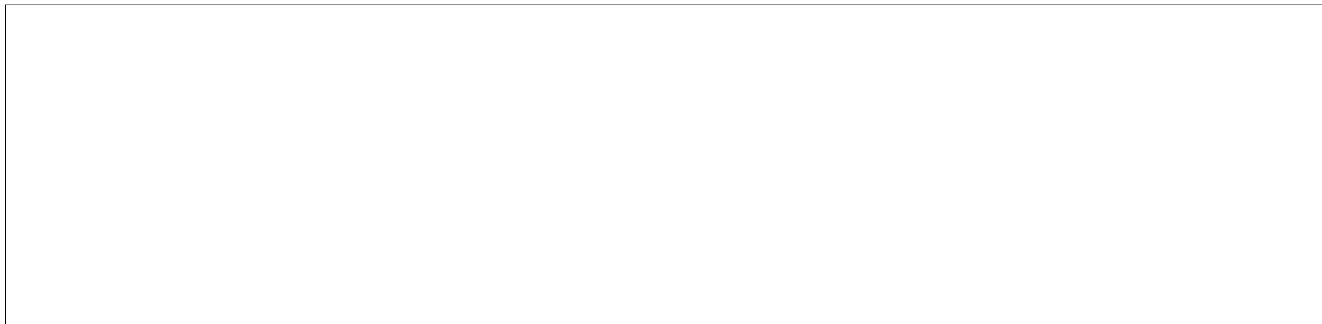
The 12-year-old school was one of two San Gabriel Valley schools honored with the Blue Ribbon award this year. The other was Hamilton Elementary School in Pasadena.

"The secret to the success of San Jose-Edison is the staff's relentless focus on quality instruction for students - and that's done through teacher collaboration, professional development, and a focus on student engagement," Patton said.

The Blue Ribbon Schools program awards public and private schools that are academically superior or have dramatically improved student achievement, especially among disadvantaged students.

"Other schools in the district have received the Blue Ribbon, and we're very proud to be next to them," Patton said. San Jose-Edison will join other West Covina Unified School District Blue

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Ribbon Schools: California Elementary School in 2003, Merced Elementary School in 2003 and Vine Elementary School in 2008.

"We're very excited San Jose got it this year," said Liliam Leis-Castillo, WCUSD superintendent.

The district aims to earn federal or state recognition for at least one of its schools each year, said Leis-Castillo.

"Every year is a new year for pushing our students forward," Patton said.

San Jose-Edison will be honored at the Blue Ribbon Schools awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., in November.

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